

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Kathleen Riley and I am the Youth and Family Services Director of the Lakewood-Trumbull YMCA.

I urge the state of Connecticut to increase their investment in Care4Kids and School Readiness. During the past 20 years, these programs have only received a three percent increase in funding from the state of Connecticut. During that same time, the minimum wage has increased by over 50% and inflation has risen by almost 50% as well.

Our Y childcare centers continue to face increased costs, especially with the minimum wage increasing this year. We are unable to charge parents more, nor can we reduce staff or staff hours. This is because of laws and regulations instituted by the State of Connecticut.

Childcare is already unaffordable and without a meaningful increase in reimbursement rates, the state will be making the children care system significantly more expensive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathleen Riley
Youth and Family Services Director
Lakewood-Trumbull YMCA